

## Course Descriptions

### **Physical Education (Semester)**

The Physical Education program provides each student with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports, physical fitness activities and Fitnessgram testing. The students receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with the different sports as well as learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities. The students will also have opportunities to become involved in life-long physical activities through individual sport units. The Physical Education program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition. Within the Physical Education curriculum, a state mandated Comprehensive Health unit will be offered. The areas covered are physical changes of adolescence, human reproduction, STD's, friendships, and goal setting. Curriculum is available for review and parents have the option to opt out of this portion of the curriculum.

### **Art (Semester)**

Student artists will be working on projects to help them develop not only artistic skills, but critical thinking and problem solving skills, too! We have a great time learning how to connect art to the world we live in today using a variety of different media to create our artwork. We focus on the elements and principles of art through drawing, painting, sculpting, photographing, and digital art mediums. We explore art history and are inspired by ancient art all the way to modern and contemporary art works!

### **Music (Semester)**

**General Music** will help students understand music and how it relates to the world around them. They will develop basic music theory skills and music fundamentals through singing, listening, moving, and playing instruments. They will also explore multicultural music, as well as music of different history periods, cultures and genres. All lessons are based on the National Standards for Music Education. This course offers an opportunity to develop the basics to appreciate, enjoy, and experience a wide variety of musical activities.

Students are required to bring a pencil and their iPads daily. Apps used include Showbie, Rhythm Cat, 3xInstruments, and basic presentation software.

### **Chorus (Semester) 8th (Yearlong and Semester)**

**Chorus** promotes academic achievement through choral performance, music evaluation, and analysis. Fundamental music theory, sight reading/singing, proper vocal production and technique, articulation, dynamics, expression, intonation, balance, blend and exposure to various musical styles are some of the core content areas covered in middle school choir. One public performance each semester is required; as public performance is an integral part of chorus. Chorus provides a positive group experience, with numerous activities for the school and community, as well as SC Choral Performance Assessment. In addition, individual performance opportunities are available through Solo and Ensemble.

**A \$20 activity fee will be collected for performance T-shirts and a local fieldtrip.** Focus, behavior and participation are primary components in grading. Students should bring a pencil and their iPads to class daily. Showbie is our primary app.

### **Band (Yearlong)**

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band Course Description

6<sup>th</sup> grade beginning band is a class dedicated to instrumental instruction. Beginning band is a class where students can learn and explore basic music skills. All students will have the opportunity learn how to play a band instrument. All students will obtain a general understanding of music through a hands on approach in this performance based class. Students will gain an appreciation for music of different styles and genres by learning to perform in a friendly and well-structured environment.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Band Course Description

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band is an instrumental music class dedicated to building and advancing all students skill levels in instrumental music. All students will continue to develop and refine their understanding of music and be able to apply them in a performance situation. Students will gain an appreciation for music of different styles and genres by learning to perform in a friendly and well-structured environment.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Band Course Description

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band is an intermediate instrumental music class dedicated to advancing all students skill levels in instrumental music. All students will continue to develop and refine their understanding of music and be able to apply them in a performance situation. Students will gain an appreciation for music of different styles and genres by learning to perform in a friendly and well-structured environment.

### **Orchestra (Strings) (Yearlong)**

#### 6th Grade Orchestra:

Beginning and Intermediate (took 5th grade strings) class instruction is offered in violin, viola, cello, and double bass instruments. Intermediate instrumental skills and orchestral techniques are taught through large and small ensembles, homogeneous and heterogeneous groupings, and performance activities. The curriculum is based upon the refinement and continuation of instrumental musical skills through ensemble and rehearsal techniques. Students will perform concerts in December, March, and May.

#### 7th Grade Orchestra:

7th Grade Orchestra is offered to all students who have successfully completed 6th Grade Orchestra and can demonstrate the necessary technical proficiency for this level of study. The curriculum is based upon the refinement and continuation of instrumental musical skills through rehearsal and ensemble techniques. Musical literacy, sight-reading, group participation, music theory, history, and cultural

influences are an integral part of this course. The course is designed to offer students the opportunity to achieve a higher level of performing ability, to study and apply musical concepts, to acquire notational literacy, and to allow participation in a performing ensemble. Stringed instruments studied will include the violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students will perform at least four concerts in October/November, December, March, and May, as well as many other performance opportunities throughout the school-year.

#### **8th Grade Orchestra:**

8th Grade Orchestra is offered to students who have successfully completed 7th Grade Orchestra and as continuation and refinement of the technical aspects of performance and individual instrument proficiency. Special emphasis is placed on advanced musical skill development, rehearsal techniques, and ensemble performance. Musical literacy, sight-reading, group participation, music theory, history, and cultural influences are an integral part of this course. 8th Grade Orchestra is a prerequisite for participation in the high school orchestra program. Stringed instruments studied will include the violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students will perform at least four concerts in October/November, December, March, and May, as well as many other performance opportunities throughout the school-year.

### **Gateway to Technology (Semester)**

Gateway to Technology is an activity-oriented curriculum designed to introduce students to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through project-based learning activities, collaborative groups, and a technology-integrated curriculum.

#### **Introduction to Engineering - 6th Grade**

A foundations unit designed to introduce students to engineering, STEM related careers, and the impact these fields of study have on our everyday lives. In this unit students explore basic fundamentals of design, the design process, and 3D modeling software and through various hands on projects.

#### **Automation and Robotics - 7th Grade**

Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. Students learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use the VEX robotics platform to design, build, and program solutions to unique real world problems.

#### **Design and Modeling - 8th Grade**

In this unit, students begin to recognize the value of an engineering notebook to document and capture their ideas. Students are introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their creative solutions.

### **STEM (Semester)**

In the STEAM course, students will work collaboratively to identify a real-world scientific problem. Students will work through the scientific process using a variety of technology-based research and presentation tools to report their findings. Students will be introduced to the knowledge, skills and

behaviors all students need to be prepared for success in college, career and life. The focus of the course is the impact of today's choices. Topics to be addressed include twenty-first century life and career skills; higher order thinking, communication, and exploration.

### **Impact (Semester)**

Impact is an introduction to computer science as a vehicle for problem solving, communication, and personal expression. Students will explore where computer science exists around them, and how they can engage with it as a tool for exploration and expression. Focus will be on problem solving, web development, and animations and games.

### **Computer Lab (Semester)**

Computer Lab / Keyboarding

In this class students are introduced to Microsoft applications such as Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. Students are given projects that allow them to use research skills and explore how to present the data in the appropriate application. During class students are required to use the proper hand technique for typing and sit properly at the computer. Once students leave my classroom they have been given the tools to use a computer the correct way and how to produce a well-developed document through Word, and present data in PowerPoint and Excel.

### **Spanish**

Sixth and Seventh Grade: Exploratory Spanish will be a semester long course in which the student will learn basic vocabulary, gain an understanding of the grammatical structure of the language, and be able to ask and answer introductory questions. Students will also learn about the cultures in which Spanish is spoken.

Eighth Grade: Spanish 1CP (Yearlong) **by English teacher recommendation only**

Student will receive High School Credit with successful completion.

This course is designed to present a foundation in the Spanish language and to provide the elementary essentials for listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course prepares students to develop the ability to understand Spanish when spoken at normal conversational speed and to read basic sentences and paragraphs. There is an introduction to Hispanic culture.